System of Environmental Economic Accounting

SEEA CF Update

SEEA CF Technical Committee Meeting

Proposed Structure for the 2028 SEEA CF

20 November 2025

United Nations

Purpose of the note

- There are a range of additional issues being discussed in the update process which are not in the current SEEA CF or may considerably extend the 2012 SEEA CF
- Use of the SEEA CF since 2012 may have identified other ways in which the content could be structured or changed in profile
- Final determination of the structure will need to wait until there is a better understanding of the types of changes to be adopted and the amount of content to be incorporated.
- The discussion at this point provides a good opportunity to place options on the table and gather initial feedback. This may support those preparing draft content.

Chapter 1: Introduction to the SEEA CF

2012 SEEA CF Chapter structure	Proposed 2028 SEEA CF Chapter structure
1.1 What is the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework?	1.1 What is the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework?
1.2 Overview of the SEEA Central Framework	1.2 Development of the SEEA Central Framework
1.3 Key features of the SEEA Central Framework	1.3 Key features of the SEEA Central Framework
	1.4 Main changes from the 2012 SEEA CF
	1.5 Structure of the SEEA CF

Chapter 2: Accounting structure

2012 SEEA CF Chapter structure	Proposed 2028 SEEA CF Chapter structure
2.1 Introduction	2.1 Introduction
2.2 Overview of the SEEA Central Framework	2.2 Overview of the SEEA Central Framework
2.3 Main accounts and tables of the SEEA Central Framework	2.3 Main accounts and tables of the SEEA Central Framework
2.4 Combining physical and monetary data	2.4 Connections between the SEEA CF and SEEA EA
2.5 Accounting for flows and stocks	2.5 Complementary accounts and presentations
2.6 Economic units	2.6 Accounting for flows and stocks
2.7 Accounting rules and principles	2.7 Economic units
	2.8 Accounting rules and principles
	2.9 Accounting at alternative frequencies and spatial scales.

Chapter 3: Physical flow accounts

2012 SEEA CF Chapter structure	Proposed 2028 SEEA CF Chapter structure
3.1 Introduction	3.1 Introduction
3.2 The physical flow accounting framework	3.2 The physical flow accounting framework
3.3 Principles of physical flow accounting	3.3 Principles of physical flow accounting
3.4 Physical flow accounts for energy	3.4 Economy wide PSUT and EW-MFA
3.5 Physical flow accounts for water	3.5 Physical flow accounts for energy
3.6 Physical flow accounts for materials	3.6 Physical flow accounts for water
	3.7 Physical flow accounts for air emissions (previously in section 3.6)
	3.8 Physical flow accounts for solid waste (previously in section 3.6)
	3.9 Pressure accounts
	3.10 Other physical flow accounts

Chapter ?: Physical stock accounts

2012 SEEA CF Chapter structure	Proposed 2028 SEEA CF Chapter structure
No current chapter match	3b.1 Introduction 3b.2 Principles of physical stock accounting 3b.3 Carbon stock accounts 3b.4 Accounts for stocks in the economy 3b.5 Physical characteristics of produced assets

Chapter 4: Environmental activity accounts and related flows

2012 SEEA CF Chapter structure	Proposed 2028 SEEA CF Chapter structure
4.1 Introduction 4.2 Environmental activities, products and producers 4.3 Environmental activity accounts and statistics 4.4 Accounting for other transactions related to the environment	4.1 Introduction 4.2 Integrated framework of monetary environmental activity accounts 4.3 Environmental activities, products and producers 4.4 Environmental activity accounts and statistics 4.5 Accounting for other transactions related to the environment

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Chapter 5: Principles in accounting for environmental assets
Chapter 6: Accounting for individual environmental assets

2012 SEEA CF Chapter structure	Proposed 2028 SEEA CF Chapter structure
5.1 Introduction	5.1 Introduction
5.2 Environmental assets in the SEEA Central Framework	5.2 Environmental assets in the SEEA Central Framework
5.3 The structure of asset accounts	5.3 The structure of asset accounts
5.4 Principles of asset accounting	5.4 Principles of asset accounting
5.5 Asset accounts for mineral and energy resources	6.1 Introduction
5.6 Asset accounts for land	6.2 Asset accounts for land
5.7 Accounting for soil resources	6.3 Asset accounts for mineral and non-renewable energy resources
5.8 Asset accounts for timber resources	6.4 Asset accounts for renewable energy resources
5.9 Asset accounts for aquatic resources	6.5 Accounting for soil resources
5.10 Accounting for other biological resources	6.6 Asset accounts for timber resources
5.11 Asset accounts for water resources	6.7 Asset accounts for aquatic resources
	6.8 Accounting for other biological resources
	6.9 Asset accounts for water resources
	6.10 Accounting for the atmosphere as an asset

Chapter 7: Integrating and presenting the accounts

2012 SEEA CF Chapter structure	Proposed 2028 SEEA CF Chapter structure
6.1 Introduction	7.1 Introduction
6.2 Integration within the SEEA Central Framework	7.2 Integration within the SEEA Central Framework
6.3 Combining physical and monetary data	7.3 Combining physical and monetary data
6.4 SEEA Central Framework aggregates and indicators	7.4 SEEA Central Framework aggregates and indicators
6.5 Examples of combined physical and monetary presentations	7.5 Examples of combined physical and monetary presentations

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Discussion & Questions

1. Should a distinction be made at the chapter level between content which is more general and conceptual in nature compared to content which pertains to specific accounts? Specifically, should current chapters 3, 4 and 5 each be split? (NB: This proposal has only been applied for Chapter 5 in the tables below).
2. Where should content on the links to SEEA Ecosystem Accounting be presented? The primary alternatives are Chapter 2 and Chapter 5.
3. Should the distinction between accounting in physical and monetary terms be made more explicit – for example in current chapters 3 and 5?
4. Is an additional chapter on physical stock accounting – for example to describe accounting for carbon stocks and for produced assets in physical terms – appropriate? If not where should this content be included? Is the title sufficiently different from accounting for environmental assets in physical terms?
5. Should the current order of the chapters remain the same – i.e. physical flow accounting, then environmental activity accounting, and finally environmental asset accounting?
6. Where should content on new SEEA CF topics be incorporated?
7. In current Chapter 5: (a) Should a clearer distinction be made between measurement in physical and monetary terms?; (b) In what order should the environmental assets be presented?
8. What structure should be applied in presenting content on the application of SEEA CF accounts considering the range of issues discussing relevant topics and the role of the SEEA CF?